

Root, Robert Marshall

Drawer 19A

Artist - R

MI. 2009. 025. 02479

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Robert Marshall Root

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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Root

ILLUSTRATED DAILY NEWS

2-12-24

New Mural of Lincoln Debate



—Underwood & Underwood.

THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR—depicted in one of his famous debates with Judge Anthony Thornton in 1856, shown in a remarkable life-size painting that has just been completed for the Courthouse at Shelbyville, Ill., by Robert Root, who was an eye-witness.

Portrait Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Springfield Weekly Eagle 12-15-29

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 28.—Coles county, rich in Lincoln lore, should have especial interest in a painting which hangs in the north corridor of the state capital building here.

The picture represents the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston on Sept. 18, 1858. The artist is Robert Marshall Root, a former resident of Shelbyville, Ill., who completed the work in July 1918. It is a large canvas and daily attracts large crowds of tourists who gaze earnestly at the scene depicted.

The debate, as pictured by the artist, took place in a beautiful grove, under the shade of overhanging trees and bushes, which are everywhere.

A flag and bunting draped platform is in the center of the crowd, which extends as far as the eyes can see in all directions.

Lincoln is speaking. His left arm is raised in a convincing gesture. The right hand rests on a sheet of paper lying on a table. Douglas is seated, a stern look on his face, at Lincoln's right. Behind Lincoln and Douglas and the group of notables seated on the platform is seated a group of reporters, with pads in hand, busily engaged in transcribing Lincoln's address.

All are dressed in the garb of the day—frock coats, wing collars with black string ties and several silk hats are in evidence. Their dress is in direct contrast to the folk gathered to hear the two national figures discuss the issues of that day. These listeners are dressed in "lick-ory" shirts, overalls, straw hats. "Galluses" are much in evidence.

A band, its members in bright uniforms is seated at the rear of

the platform, their instruments in their arms.

A large pavilion is seen in the background. Seated within it are the members of what appears to be a fife and drum corps—in all probability engaged to toot vigorously for one candidate or the other.

In the left rear of the picture a covered wagon, hitched to several span of oxen, is shown. The wagon bears the words—"Abe's entrance into Charleston 28 years ago." This sign evidently has reference to the emigration of the Lincoln family from Indiana to Illinois when Abe was a boy. The exact route the family took is now under dispute by two organizations seeking to decide the route for the proposed Lincoln Memorial Highway.

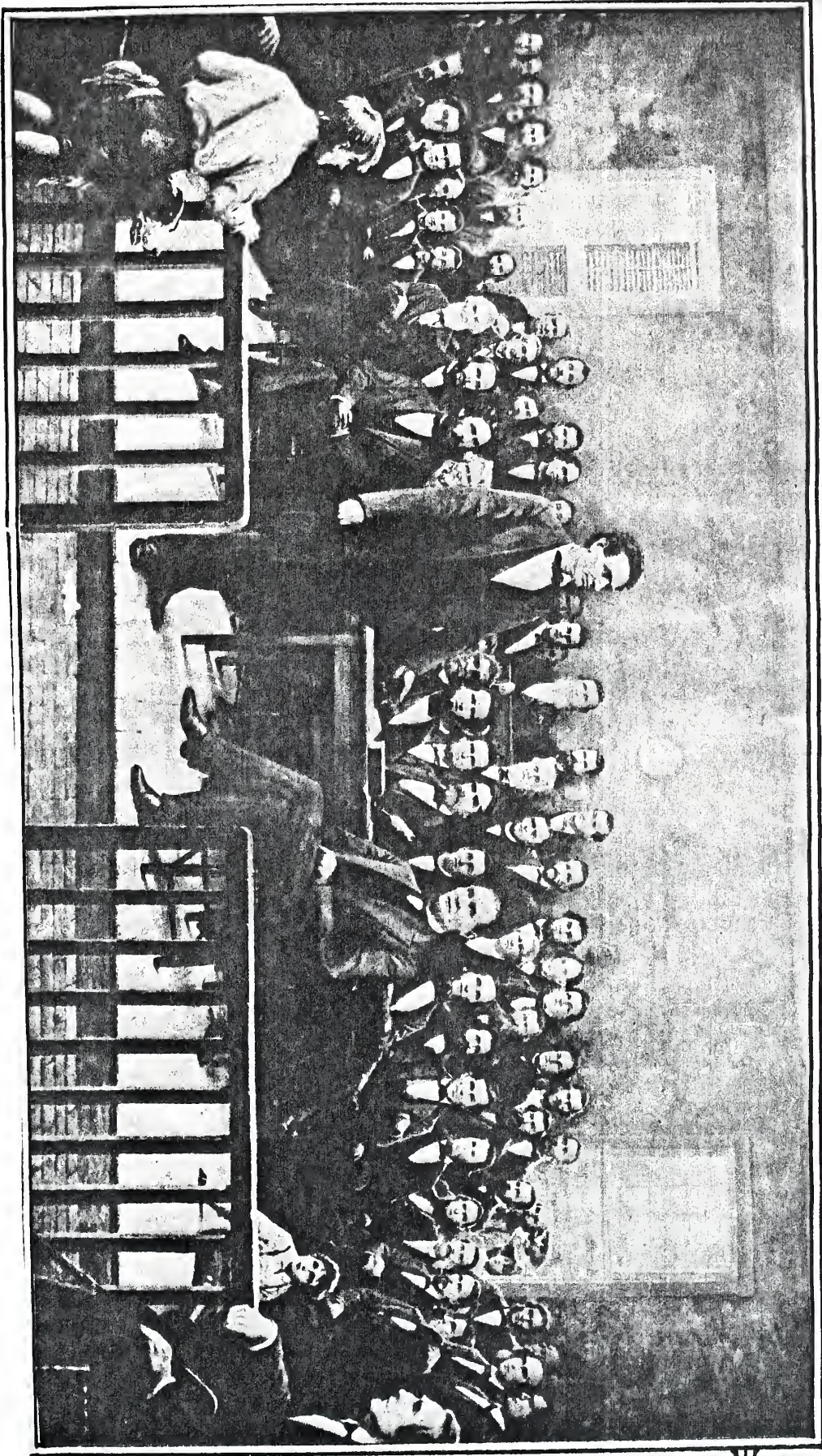
Political rivalry of the time is depicted by the signs borne in the hands of partisans of one or the other of the two debaters and appearing over the heads of the crowd.

One reads "Coles county for Lincoln—400 majority." Another, apparently borne by those who disagreed with Lincoln's views, bears the words "Coles County for Douglas" but failed to predict by what majority.

Another sign reads "Kansas Will be Free." Another pleads: "Support Abraham Lincoln, the Defender of Henry Clay." Another bears the names of Lincoln and Oglesby, the latter referring to Illinois, Civil War governor. Another lists Marshall and Craddock. Sticking out of a clump of leaves, another sign starts, "Douglas, the Little Giant," the foliage blotting out the remainder of the words.

It's a picture well worth seeing for Coles county folk.

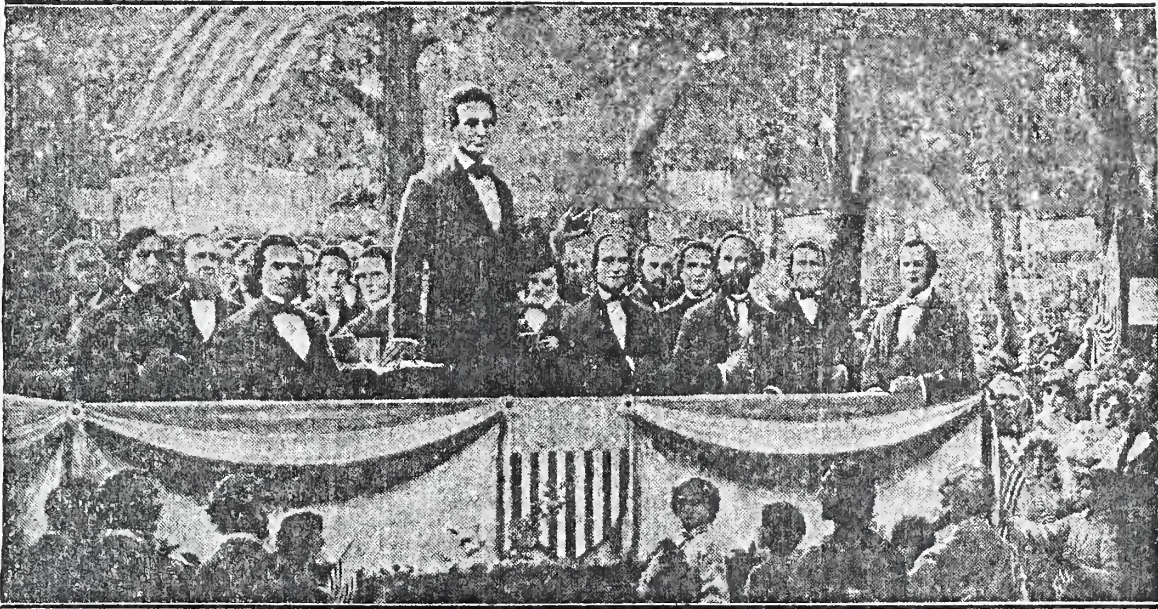
THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 9, 1930.



3/6/30

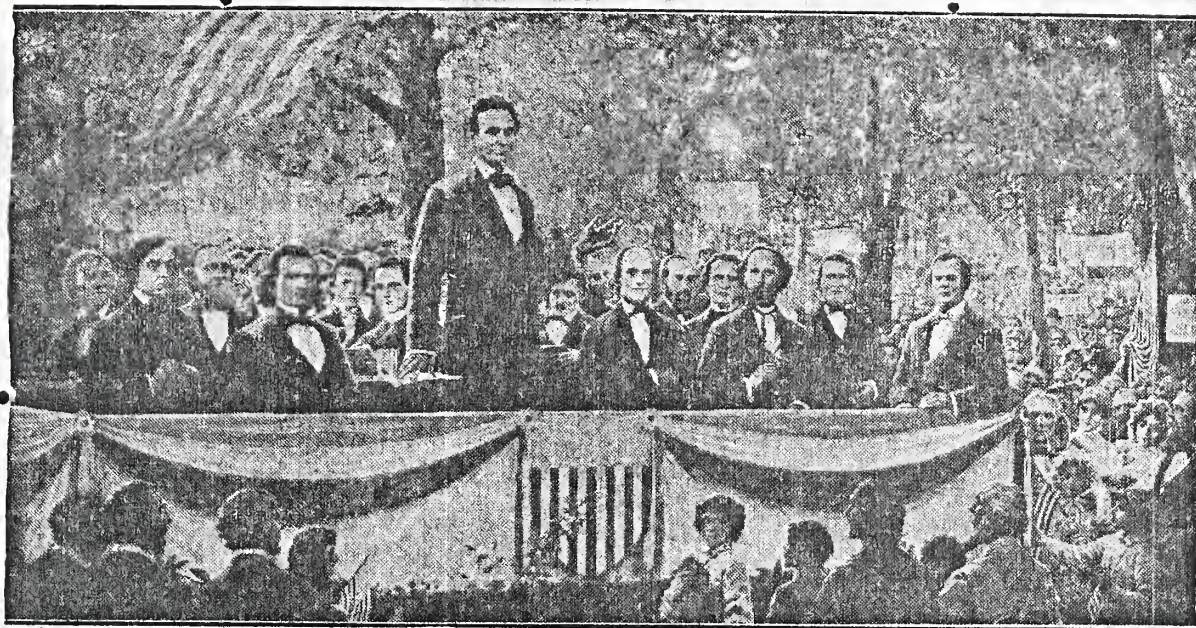
THE VINCENNES SUN, VINCENNES, INDIANA

PICTURE OF THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

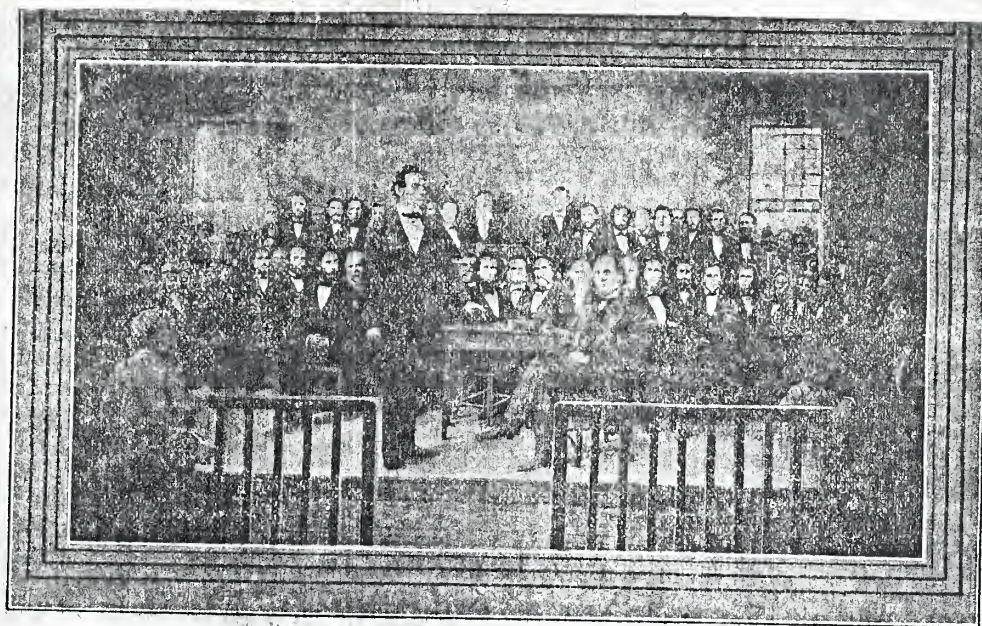


Furnished by the courtesy of T. B. Shoaff, Shelbyville, Ill.

Robert M. Root's famous painting of the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Charleston, Ill. Lincoln is speaking. Seated at his right is Stephen A. Douglas, his opponent; to Douglas' right is Col. Orlando B. Dicklin, a distinguished lawyer of his day. The seven men on the platform at Lincoln's right are left to right: Henry Binmore, Col. James T. Cunningham, James B. Sheridan, Usher F. Linder, H. P. H. Bromwell, Elisha Linder and Richard J. Oglesby. This painting hangs in the State House at Springfield.



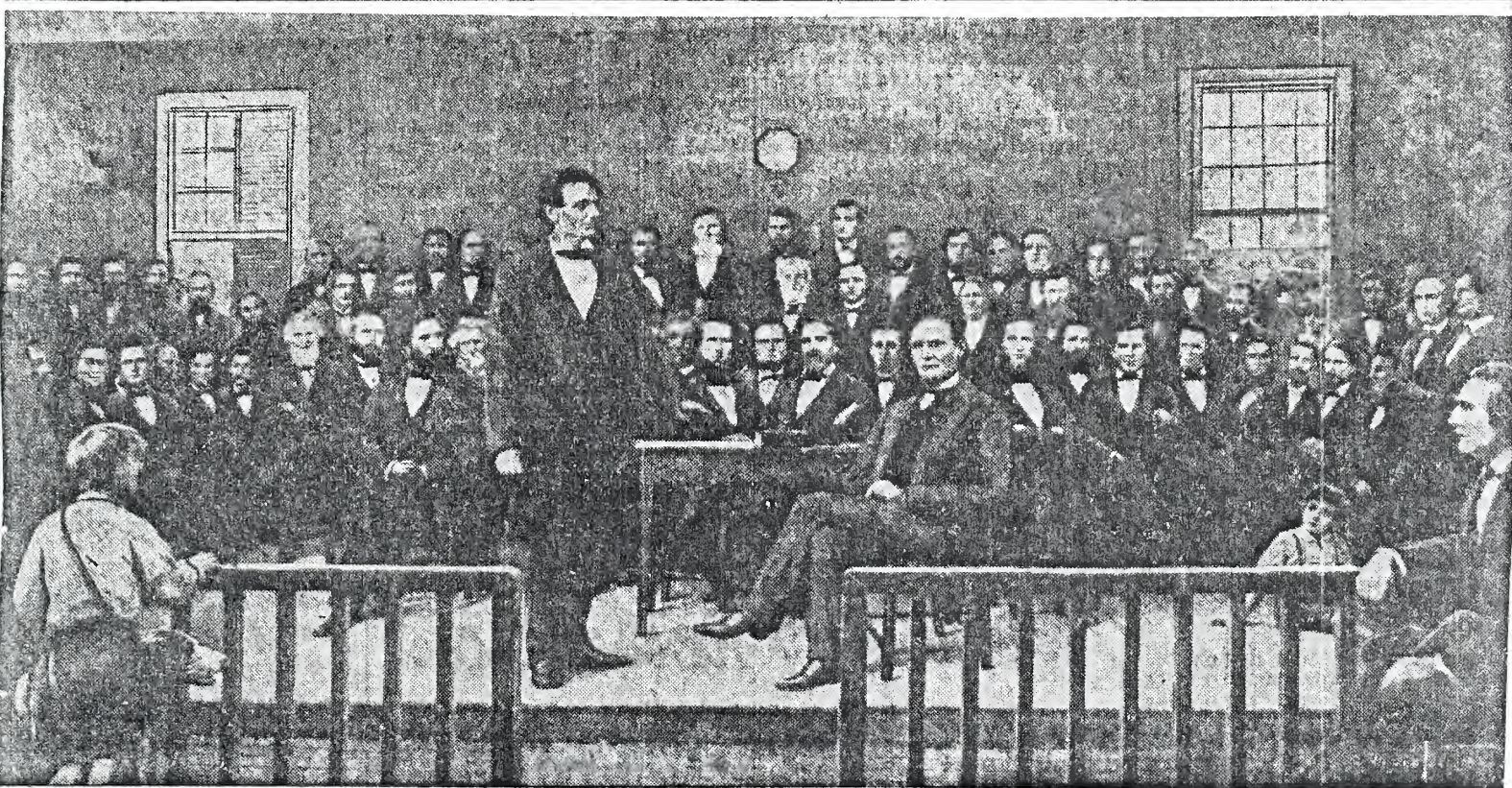
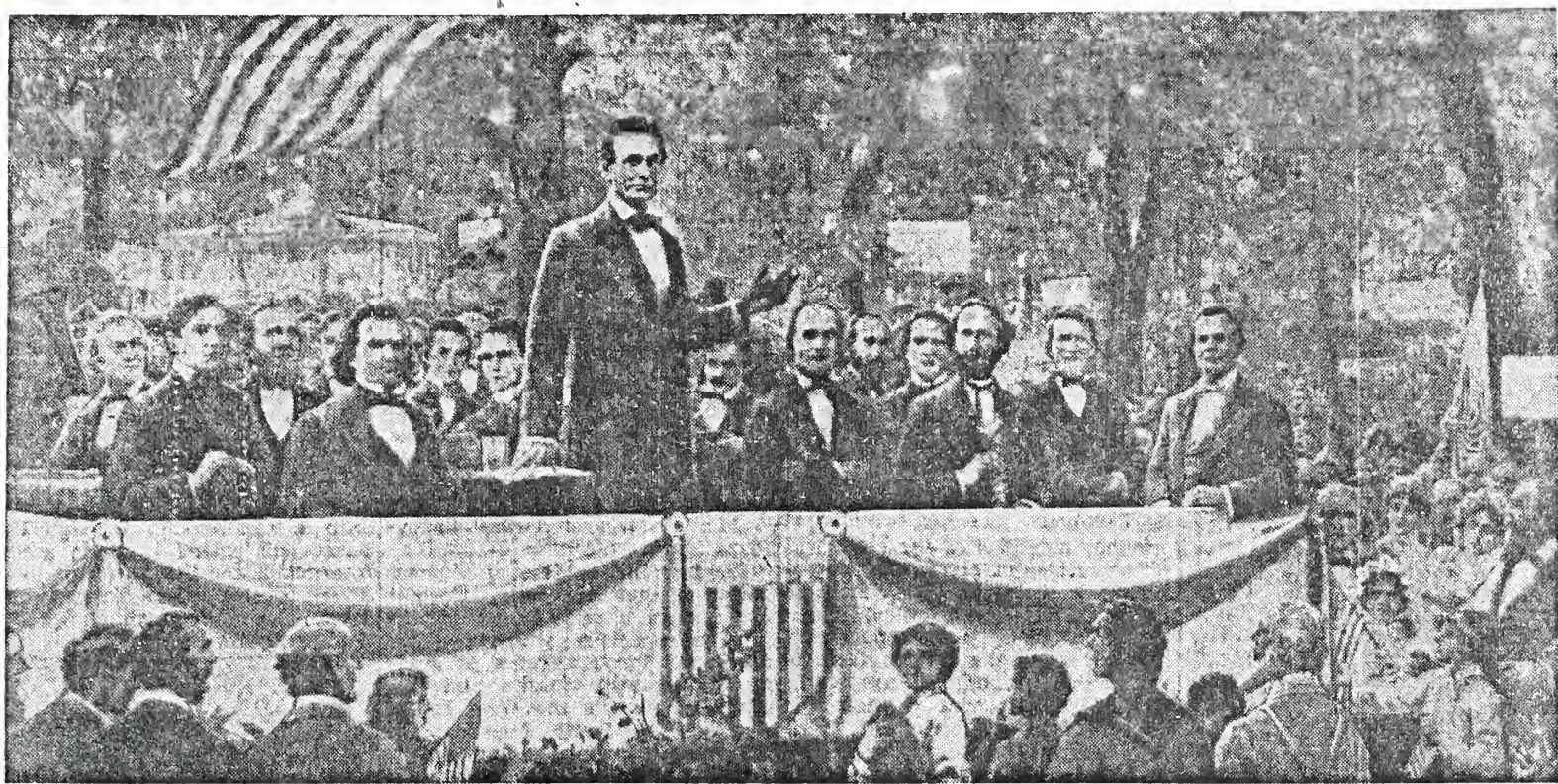
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Lincoln-Thornton Debate in Shelbyville, 1856, on "Freedom of the Territories." (From Original Painting by Robert M. Root.)

Shelby Co. Leader - Feb. 11 - 1882 - 2. Linder

LINCOLN PAINTINGS DECORATE ILLINOIS BUILDINGS



These historically accurate paintings of two of Abraham Lincoln's debates, painted by the late Robert Marshall Root, artist of Shelbyville, decorate the walls of two buildings in central Illinois. The painting (top) of the fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate hangs in the corridor of the State Capitol at Springfield and the painting (below) of the Lincoln-Thornton debate at Shelbyville in June, 1856, is hung in the auditorium of the Shelbyville High School.

Root, ROBERT MARSHALL

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Att: R

